

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) today announced that over \$2 million has been awarded to Orange County by the Emergency Food and Shelter (EFS) Program. The funding will support social service agencies that feed and shelter the hungry and homeless throughout Orange County. EFSP funds are used to supplement food, shelter, rent, mortgage, and utility assistance programs for people with non-disaster related emergencies.

"The current economic recession has had a devastating impact on many local families," said Rep. Sanchez. "Some have had to turn to local shelters, soup kitchens, and food banks just to put food on the table and keep a roof over their head. This funding will help ensure that Orange County's hungry and homeless continue to receive the services and support they need to get back on their feet."

Additional jurisdictions in California may be selected at a later date by the EFSP State Set-Aside Committee. The EFSP is administered by a National Board, chaired by Berl D. Jones Jr. of FEMA, with representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; The Jewish Federations of North America; The Salvation Army; and, United Way Worldwide. United Way Worldwide serves as Secretariat and Fiscal Agent to the National Board and provides supplemental funding to shelters, soup kitchens, and food banks. One-month awards for rent, mortgage, and utility assistance are also available.

In each funded jurisdiction, a Local Board advertises the availability of the funds, establishes local priorities, selects local non-profit and government agencies to receive supplemental funding, and monitors program compliance. The Local Board's composition mirrors the EFS Program National Board, with a local government official replacing FEMA and board members voting to select their chair.

The EFS Program has been in existence since 1983 and was authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987. With the FY 2010 allocation, more than \$3.6 billion in federal aid will have been disbursed through the EFSP since its inception to communities nationwide, and has accounted for millions of additional meals and nights of shelter to the hungry and homeless most in need across the nation.

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